



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

PROJECT TITLE	Richardson Flume and Instrument Shelter 2022		
PROJECT LOCATION	Legal Description: T17N R17W S15 Mount Diablo	COUNTY	Mendocino
LEAD AGENCY	California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)		
CONTACT	Fey Egan, Forester I	PHONE	707-964-5674 ext. 129
ADDRESS	802 N Main St., Fort Bragg, CA 95437		

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This project consists of the construction of a 6-foot by 8-foot wooden instrument shelter and the installation of a 24" prefabricated fiberglass Montana Flume with an integral stilling well. The proposed project will take place on Richardson tributary of South Fork Caspar Creek, approximately 50 meters upstream of the existing flume and instrument shelter, Richardson (RIC). The purpose of the proposed project is to improve the integrity of streamflow and sediment data collected in the experimental watershed by adding an additional data collection site upstream of the periodic sediment source. Some removal of brush will be required to clear a less than 100-square-foot area for the location of the instrument shelter. No trees will be removed. The instrument shelter will be in close proximity to the flume. The flume will be installed in the watercourse by hand crews. The flume installation will require minor alteration to soil. During all phases of the project which will take place in the streambed, a water bypass will be installed, and the actual work site will be kept dry. The bypass will be created using an upstream dam made of sandbags filled with native material. A PVC siphon will route flow downstream past the work area. Concrete will be used in the foundation and will fully set before water is allowed to flow through the flume. All work will be performed during the low flow season to further avoid impacts on wet season hydrology, water quality and actual work feasibility. Once in place, this type of gaging structure allows free flow of stream water, sediment, and organics.

EXEMPTION STATUS

- Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4
Section 15304
- Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)
- Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
- Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT

This project fits under portions of the Class 4 Minor Alteration to Land (PRC § 15304) classification of Categorical Exemptions. The project will require some removal of understory vegetation, including brush removal, but no tree removal. The project will require minor alteration to soil within a non-fish-bearing watercourse. No heavy machinery will be used, and all work will be done by hand crews. These actions fall under Class IV, Minor Alterations to Land. These areas were carefully inspected for environmental concerns. The California Natural Diversity Data Base was searched, and the Jackson State Demonstration records were consulted. No rare, threatened, or endangered plant or animal species were identified that will be negatively impacted by this project. The proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. Field review by CAL FIRE staff confirmed that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. The Department has concluded that no significant environmental impact would occur to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems. Documentation of the environmental review completed by the Department is kept on file at 802 N Main Street, Fort Bragg, CA 95437.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

DocuSigned by:
John Melvin
10/5/2022

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John Melvin, Assistant Deputy Director Date
Resource Protection and Improvement
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection